

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: DeLoach et al.

Art Unit: 2822

Serial No.: 10/689,177

Examiner: Guerrero, M.

Filing Date: 10/20/2003

Docket No.: TI-35986

Customer No.: 23494

Conf. No.: 2711

Title: AN IN SITU HARDDMASK PULLBACK USING AN IN SITU PLASMA RESIST
TRIM PROCESS

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following remarks are offered in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated October 11, 2006. They are respectfully submitted as a full and complete response to that Action.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this case.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng (U.S. Patent 6,093,621), of record, in view of Nagarajan (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0166838).

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Tseng in view of Nagarajan as there is no disclosure or suggestion in the references of trimming a
TI-35986